

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 have been canceled, though Applicant reserves the right to pursue these claims or others like them at a later date.

New claims 21-41 are supported in the Description of Preferred Embodiments and Drawings sections and include no new matter. Please note that these claims recite “only a single socket,” which, together with the reminder of the recited limitations, patentably distinguishes these claims over the prior art. Also note that this term “only a single socket” is similar to the term “a single, substantially rigid socket” that was recited in now-canceled claim 10. Examiner rejected canceled claim 10 stating on page 3 of the Final Office which recited “a single socket” stating:

“Regarding claim 10 and others, the components 60B, 108, and 52 can collectively be viewed as a single, substantially rigid (column 8, lines 38-40) socket; alternatively, the socket 52 in other disclosed embodiments is the only substantially rigid socket, because socket 60 or 60A is flexible (column 7, line 25).”

Unlike Examiner’s point regarding claim 10, the new claims do not include the term “rigid.” Instead, the new claims expressly limit the claim to cover apparatus having “only a single socket.” This embodiment, referred to as the “eighth embodiment,” is specifically described starting on page 18, line 17 of the application:

“Unlike earlier embodiments, the artificial limb 50 of the eighth embodiment has only a single socket 60 rather than inner and outer sockets and is thus considerably simpler.”

During a telephonic interview on August 16, 2007 with Examiner, Applicant noted its intent to submit claims that recited this distinction, that is, claims like new claims 21-40. Applicants thank Examiner for the opportunity to discuss this point. In the corresponding Interview Summary mailed August 23, 2007, Examiner stated:

“The Applicant emphasized that the single rigid socket of the present invention provides good pressure distribution and reduces vacuum pockets and edema. No agreement was yet reached as to allowable claim language.”

Applicant recalls discussing good pressure distribution and the reduction of pockets and edema, but not limiting this to the single socket embodiment. Further, Applicant did not or, at least, did not mean to refer to the single socket embodiment in terms of the socket being *rigid* as is noted in the Interview Summary. But rather, Applicant wished to convey its belief that no prior reference, including Applicant's own prior patent such as cited U. S. Pat. 5,735,906, disclose a prosthetic apparatus having *only a single socket* and, inter alia, a vacuum source. Contrary to the eighth embodiment having *only a single socket* as recited in new claims 21-40, each of the several embodiments in U. S. Pat. 5,735,906 describe two sockets.

Applicant also notes that the new claims recite having no tubing for insertion between the liner and the residual limb for removing air at an interface between the liner and the residual limb. The Helmy patent, U. S. Pat. 6,231,616, which Examiner previously cited in an earlier rejection, teaches away from this limitation by teaching only embodiments having tubing that is inserted between the liner and the residual limb for removing air at an interface between the liner and the residual limb.

Because no prior art teaches, suggests, or renders obvious the invention recited in claims 21-40, Applicant respectfully requests that these claims be indicated as allowable.

Regarding Examiner's notation that the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) of June 4, 2007, cannot be considered, Applicant takes this to mean that Applicant should have noted in the IDS that a "Fee ..." box should have been checked off rather than the "None" box. If this is not correct, Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the number listed below. Assuming it is correct, Applicant will submit a corrected IDS.

Respectfully submitted,

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